

**A B S T R A C T**

A method of classifying data in a descending hierarchy, in which each datum is associated with particular initial values for attributes that are common to the data,

5 the method comprising recursive steps of subdividing data sets. During each step of subdividing a set, discrete attribute values are calculated from the particular initial attribute values of the data of said set, and said set is subdivided into subsets as a function of the discrete values.